

## India visit described as 'significant milestone'

**NEW DELHI:** India's External Affairs Ministry has described Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's recent official visit to India as a significant milestone in strengthening the partnership between the two nations.

Its spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said both countries are making substantial progress in areas such as the economy, defence, technology, investments, logistics and diaspora relations.

"This ongoing growth presents a strong foundation, and we are committed to further strengthening this partnership," he said at the 79th edition of the "Know India Programme" here for the Indian diaspora from Nov 25 to Dec 13.

Anwar's visit to India from Aug 19 to 21 was his first official trip to the country since assuming office as Malaysia's 10th prime minister in Nov 2022.

Randhir said recent editions of the programme has seen strong participation from Malaysians who have gained valuable experience from them.

"We have learnt a great deal from each other, sharing knowledge and best practices. Ultimately, it's about building a stronger, united family.

"We believe in the concept of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, that the world is one family, and we are all working towards that common goal."

A total of 27 Indian journalists from 11 countries, including Malaysia, Mauritius, Singapore, Indonesia, Fiji, Sri Lanka, Kenya and New Zealand, are participating in the 79th edition of the programme.

During his visit, Anwar highlighted that Malaysia secured potential trade deals worth RM8 billion in palm oil and palm oil based products, chemicals and chemical products, oil and gas as well as aircraft spare parts.

"Investment commitments, totalling RM4.5 billion were also secured from several sectors and companies in the South Asian nation," Anwar was quoted as saying.

In 2023, total trade between Malaysia and India amounted to RM72.31 billion.  
- Bernama